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³
A JUST
C H A R A C T E R
O F T H E L A T E
S A M U E L F O T H E R G I L L,

Brother to the Physician Dr. FOTHERGILL.

Taken from the BRITISH MAGAZINE.

To which is added,

The S U B S T A N C E of a few
E X P R E S S I O N S

Delivered by him to some of his Relations,
when they took Leave of him, previous
to their setting out for the YEARLY-
MEETING in LONDON, in the YEAR
1772.

L O N D O N :

Re-printed in the Year MDCCLXXIV.

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FROM THE
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February 3, 1952

A JUST
 CHARACTER
 OF THE LATE
 SAMUEL FOTHERGILL.

TO commemorate the Virtues of great and eminent Men, who have been honourable in their Day, is a Tribute due to their Memory. — A Tribute which sensible Men pay from Emotions of respectful Gratitude ; and from a Hope that it may prove an Incentive to the Living to emulate their Virtues.

Among this Class the late *Samuel Fothergill*, of *Warrington*, an eminent Preacher amongst the *Quakers*, may with great Justice be ranked. I knew him well ; and had the Happiness of his occasional Acquaintance : I call it the Happiness, because I never enjoyed the Company of any Person from whom I receiv'd more real Satisfaction ; and however diversified with Affliction, the future Part of my Life may prove, I shall never remember those Hours I have spent with him, but with peculiar Pleasure. He was an happy Compound of the Gentleman and the *Christian* ; the Virtues and amiable Qualities of each

each Character being admirably blended in him. Graceful in his Person and Deportment, easy and affable in his Manner, he commanded both Respect and Love. He possessed natural Abilities, far superior to the generality of Mankind; and improved them to the utmost of his Power. Well read both in Books and Men, his Studies did not terminate in barren Speculation; but the great Truths of natural and revealed Religion were deeply implanted in his Heart, and beamed forth illustriously in an amicable, benevolent, and truly *Christian* Conduct.

As a Member of Civil Society, he was exceedingly useful, filling up the social and relative Duties of Life with great Propriety. Blameless in his Manners; kind, charitable, and ready on all Occasions to devote his Time and Talents to promote the best of all Causes, the Good of Mankind. He lived beloved, and his Loss is deeply deplored by all who had the Happiness of knowing his Worth.

As a Preacher, he was far superior to most who fill that Station: Sound in the most important Doctrines of the *Christian* Faith, he endeavoured to promote them universally, with the greatest Energy of Language, and the most persuasive Eloquence. In this Capacity he was indeed truly great; and his Greatness received additional Lustre from his Humility. Although followed by Numbers, and courted by Persons

of superior Rank and Station, and admired by those of all Persuasions, the Applause, which his Eminence justly acquired, did not exalt, but evidently tended to make him humble. He was a Person of an enlarged Mind, zealous without Bigotry, and a steady Promoter of universal Charity. In his Sermons, it was evident to all his intelligent Hearers, that he deeply felt the Force of those solemn Truths he delivered; and his Manner of displaying them was so justly emphatical, that none but the Insensible or Obdurate could withstand their Force, or long remain unaffected by them. He travelled much, from the most disinterested Motives, amongst his Friends in *Great-Britain* and the *American Colonies*, for the Promotion of Piety and *Christian* Virtue, and for the Advancement of that Faith and Religion, in which he most surely believed, and was so eminent an Example.

During the latter Part of his Life he was much indisposed in his Health; but (as I have heard from the best Authority) perfectly happy and easy in his Mind, having an Evidence in himself that he was approaching that State of Felicity which is prepared for the Righteous. This Evidence supported him through the Remains of a painful Life, and was his unfailing Hope in the awful Hour of Death, which (when near his End) he declared, *Had no Terrors, nor would the Grave have any Victory.* And also
added,

added, *That as he had lived, so he should close,*
with the most unshaken Assurance, that he had not
followed cunningly devised Fables, but the pure,
living and eternal Substance. Such was his exem-
 plary Life.—Such his triumphant Death. A
 Life so spent is truly honourable—and such a
 Death as unspeakably glorious.

A LOVER OF TRUTH AND VIRTUE.

The SUBSTANCE of a few
E X P R E S S I O N S

DELIVERED BY

SAMUEL FOTHERGILL.

OUR Health is no more at our Command, than Length of Days: — Mine seems drawing fast towards a Conclusion, — I think; but I am content with every Allotment of Providence, for they are all in Wisdom, — unerring Wisdom.

There is ONE THING, which, as an Arm underneath, bears up and supports; and though the rolling tempestuous Billows surround, yet my Head is kept above them, and my Feet are firmly established. — Oh! seek it, — press after it, — lay fast Hold of it.

Though painful my Nights, and wearisome my Days, yet I am preserved in Patience and Resignation, — Death has no Terrors, nor will the Grave have any Victory. — My Soul triumphs over Death, Hell, and the Grave.

Husbands and Wives, Parents and Children, Health and Riches, must all go. — *Disappointment* is another Name for them.

I should

I should have been thankful had I been able to have got to the ensuing Yearly-Meeting in *London*, which you are now going to attend, where I have been so often refreshed with my Brethren ; but it is otherwise allotted. — I shall remember them, and some of them will remember me. — The Lord knows best what is best for us ; I am content, and resigned to his Will.

I feel a Foretaste of the Joy that is to come ; — and who would wish to change such a State of Mind ?

I should be glad if an easy Channel could be found to inform the Yearly-Meeting, that as I have lived, so I shall close, with the most unshaken Assurance, that we have not followed cunningly devised Fables, but the pure, living, eternal Substance.

Let the Aged be strong, let the Middle-aged be animated, and the Youth encouraged ; for the Lord is still with Sion ; the Lord will bless Sion.

If I be now removed out of his Church Militant, where I have endeavoured in some Measure to fill up my Duty, I have an EVIDENCE that I shall gain an Admittance into his glorious Church Triumphant, far above the Heavens.

My dear Love is to all them that love the Lord Jesus.

F I N I S.



